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Report of the Council of the United Nations University

January-December 2005

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Supplement No. 31 (A/61/31)

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I. Summary

1. Since its modest beginnings in 1975, the United Nations University (UNU) has grown and matured into a decentralized, global network, comprising the UNU Centre in Tokyo, 12 research and training centres/programmes, and liaison offices at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris. The core network of the University is assisted by nine associated institutions and hundreds of cooperating institutions and individuals worldwide. The University functions as a unique, truly international organization, tasked with finding interdisciplinary solutions to pressing global problems that are of concern to the United Nations, its peoples and Member States. Although it is one of the smaller United Nations organizations, and is reliant on voluntary contributions, over the past 30 years the University has greatly enhanced the nature and impact of its contributions to the United Nations system and to the international scholarly and research community.

2. From its unique position, UNU undertakes a wide range of knowledge generation, knowledge transfer and knowledge application/management activities, including basic and applied research, foresight and policy studies, capacity-development activities (including online learning), networking (collaboration with UNU organizations and external partners) and targeted dissemination and outreach. The University's work in 2005 was guided by the document "UNU Strategic Directions" (2005-2008), approved by the Council of UNU in December 2004, which defines the path forward and specifies key goals and deliverables.

3. The programme space within which the University operates is defined by three variables: the major processes that are rapidly and profoundly changing our world; the actors that are effecting these changes, while at the same time being affected by them; and the topics/themes most relevant to the UNU mission. Within this programme space, UNU activities are clustered into two broad programme areas: (a) Peace and governance and (b) Environment and development, and further focused within five thematic areas:

1. Peace and security;
2. Good governance, from local to global;
3. Development and poverty reduction;
4. Environment and sustainability;
5. Science, technology and society.

4. The present report presents a broad overview of the work of UNU in 2005. Rather than attempting to provide an exhaustive inventory of the University's operations and achievements, it highlights a representative sampling of the geographic coverage and thematic scope of its work, introduces selected projects and activities and acknowledges some of the University's partner institutions. Further information is available on the UNU website (http://www.unu.edu).

5. The governing Council of United Nations University formulates the principles and policies that govern UNU operations, approves the University's work programme and budget and makes recommendations on effective functioning. At its fifty-second session, in December in Tokyo, the Council approved the academic programme and budget of the University for the biennium 2006-2007. The Council

also reviewed the University's financial situation, approved a UNU-wide fund-raising strategy, and considered a report on the evaluation of the UNU financial assistance programme for students from developing countries as well as the Rector's response to the recommendations contained in the evaluation report. The Council also took note of progress reports on: (a) the preparation of strategic options to increase the impact of UNU in Africa; (b) the status of implementation of the strategic plan for the UNU follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and (c) the UNU initiative on education for sustainable development. It also considered reports on the career development of alumni of the University's Institute for New Technologies (UNU-INTECH) PhD internship and PhD degree programmes and its strategy for the distribution of its technology policy briefs and on developments with regard to the initiative of its International Network on Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) for a UN-Water virtual learning centre.

6. Noteworthy institutional achievements in 2005 include:

(a) The thirtieth anniversary of the University's establishment in Tokyo and the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU-WIDER) in Helsinki;

(b) UNU-INTECH and the Maastricht Economic Research Centre on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) completed the formal integration of their academic activities, in preparation for forming UNU-MERIT in January 2006;

(c) The Global Fire Monitoring Centre of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences (operating within the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry at the University of Freiburg, Germany) was designated as a UNU associated institution;

(d) The University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) began to implement cooperative ventures with the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Enschede, the Netherlands, which was designated as a UNU associated institution in 2004;

(e) Financing, by the newly established Munich Re Foundation, for an initial five-year period, of a chair on social vulnerability at UNU-EHS;

(f) UNU and the University of Namibia agreed to designate the University of Namibia's Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre (Henties Bay) as an operating unit of the University's Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA);

(g) UNU began the search for a new Rector, to assume the post in September 2006 upon the retirement of current UNU Rector, Hans van Ginkel.

II. Thematic area 1: Peace and security

7. While the end of the cold war transformed the global political climate of superpower confrontation, the United Nations goals of international peace and security remain elusive. The world community faces increasingly complex challenges of preventing and responding to trans-border disputes, internal conflicts and State fragmentation that endanger the security and welfare of people worldwide. The following UNU projects and activities were undertaken in 2005 within the thematic area of "Peace and security".

8. **United Nations reform**: ongoing UNU research on transformations in the United Nations system and its peace operations and the challenges of preventing or reacting to humanitarian atrocities will culminate in the publication of a book (in 2006) offering fresh insights on why, when, and how force may be used in international affairs. The authors argue that the growing gulf between legality and legitimacy is evidence of an eroded sense of international community, deconstruct recent tensions between the United States of America and the United Nations and assert the centrality of the rule of law and of a rules-based international order anchored in the United Nations system.

9. **Peacebuilding and peacekeeping**: the United Nations High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change found that up to half of violent conflicts that are considered settled re-emerge within five years. In February, a conference organized by UNU and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (India) analysed the credibility and relevance of recent United Nations peacekeeping operations, discussed the implications for Indian and Japanese policies on peacekeeping operations, and examined the impact of recent United Nations initiatives (such as the Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and the report of the High-level Panel (A/59/565)). In March, UNU and Chuo University (Japan) co-organized a workshop that examined the history of United Nations peacekeeping operations and deliberated on how future efforts could be made more efficient, and in October, the annual United Nations Day Public Forum at the UNU Centre re-emphasized the growing consensus that peacebuilding should be the core concern of the United Nations system.

10. **Accountability and justice**: a January meeting on the "Rule of Law and Transitional Justice", organized jointly by UNU and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, highlighted the problems of transitional justice and formulated working solutions. The results of the meeting, which confirmed significant progress in the area of international criminal justice, were noted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his 2005 report on the work of the Organization (A/60/1, para. 212). In March, UNU and the Hague Academic Coalition co-organized a conference on international criminal accountability and children's rights in a pioneer attempt to bridge two major conceptual and practical subjects: the protection of the rights of the child (as codified in international law); and the development of international criminal jurisdiction regarding crimes against children.

11. **Reforming civil-military relations**: although military and police forces play a crucial role in the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, the internal security structures of such societies often lack civilian and democratic control, internal cohesion, effectiveness, and public credibility. UNU research suggests that external actors, regional organizations, and the United Nations can assist the process by creating a basic security environment, preventing the remnants of armed groups from spoiling the fragile peacebuilding process and facilitating security sector reforms. A 2005 UNU peace and governance programme book examined security reform programmes in different regions and warned that military forces can be counterproductive unless their roles are effectively tied into the overall peacebuilding effort.

12. **Researching conflict in Africa**: a project of the UNU Peace and Governance Programme brought together experienced researchers from both within and outside Africa to consolidate and compare their research experiences on the continent (one

of the world's leading theatres of conflict, instability, illicit arms trade, poverty and AIDS). The result was a book that documents a variety of approaches, insights and dilemmas and directly addresses the ethical and practical issues of conducting research within violent and divided societies.

13. **From warlords to "peacelords"**: a research project on local leadership in conflict and peacebuilding by the UNU/University of Ulster initiative on International Conflict Research (INCORE) sought to explain the bitter irony that local political leaders who play a central part in perpetuating conflict often also play a public role in the subsequent peace processes. The project findings suggest that these local leaders typically lack the necessary administrative capabilities/capacity, while followers have little influence over the actions of their leaders; and that, therefore, instead of concentrating on local leaders as the means to end conflicts and build peace, the focus should be equally on the potential influence of international leaders and organizations.

14. **Improving the influence of research**: the INCORE publication, *Mind the Gap: Policy Development and Research on Conflict Issues*, was the outcome of a project that examined the relationship between the research and policy worlds. The researchers sought to ascertain if, and how, research informs policy and development and to suggest tactics by which policy-oriented researchers can increase their influence.

15. **International interventions**: the ethics of international intervention for humanitarian, pro-democratic and anti-terrorist reasons, and the legal, ethical and institutional means of regulating such interventions, was the subject of a project by the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL), a joint initiative of UNU and Griffith University (Australia). Several case studies and theoretical pieces were presented to the International Studies Association in Hawaii in March, and an edited collection based on the project results will be published in 2006. Meanwhile, work on pro-democratic interventions by the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law with the Council on Foreign Relations Task Force and the Open Society Institute democracy project, resulted in a book published in 2005, with another planned for late 2006.

16. **Capacity development and outreach**: activities within the thematic area of peace and security in 2005 included:

(a) Contributions by the UNU Centre to the Seventeenth Ship for World Youth programme (organized by the Cabinet office of the Government of Japan) and preparations for the national Model United Nations;

(b) A three-month training course on South Asian Conflict Resolution (INCORE);

(c) Five modules related to peace processes, peacebuilding and gender/education for the sixth INCORE Summer School.

III. Thematic area 2: Good governance — from local to global

17. The democratization of political systems does not necessarily lead to more accountable Governments or to better economic management. Appropriate governance institutions and arrangements, at all levels, are crucial to the achievement of human security and welfare; the Secretary-General has declared good governance to be "perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development". UNU projects and activities in 2005 within the thematic area of "good governance" included the following.

18. **Reforming from the top**: few scholars or practitioners would argue that the current international system is working well; but while some see a need to reform existing institutions (such as the United Nations, the Group of Eight and the World Bank), others would prefer to see the emergence of new institutions that better reflect today's political and economic realities, such as a "leaders summit forum" (the proposed L20). UNU and the Centre of International Governance and Innovation (Canada) co-organized a meeting to consider what a hypothetical L20 could achieve on current United Nations reform issues. The issue was also addressed in a book issued by the UNU peace and governance programme, which posed crucial questions about the composition of the L20, including how to attract potentially reluctant participants (such as the United States of America and the Russian Federation), what issues it might effectively tackle and what sort of relationship it would have with existing international organizations.

19. **The role of civil society organizations**: the topic of the 2005 European Union/UNU Tokyo Global Forum, co-organized by UNU and the delegation of the European Commission in Japan, was "Bridging the Gap: Involving Citizens' Movements and Non-Governmental Organizations in the Democratic Process". The forum, held at the UNU Centre in February, explored the roles of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the areas of human rights, humanitarian assistance and development and the environment, as well as in creating a civil dialogue within societies.

20. **Cross-border human flows in north-east Asia**: international migration and the cross-border movement of people are important components of international relations in north-east Asia. A project of the UNU peace and governance programme, co-organized with the Monterey Institute of International Studies (United States of America), resulted in a book that explores the broad implications of these human flows. The consensus is that while the cross-border movement of people in the region mostly results from economic "push and pull" factors, the impact is multifaceted (including political, social and cultural dimensions) and, in some cases, affects national and human security concerns.

21. **Interregionalism**: in 2005, the University's Comparative Regional Integration Studies programme (UNU-CRIS) organized a conference on the future of relations between the European Union and the Andean Community and joined the European Union-Latin American Relations Observatory, a network of research initiatives that started activities in May. A special issue of the *Journal of European Integration* on the topic of interregionalism, edited by UNU-CRIS personnel, was published in September, and a book co-edited by UNU-CRIS reviewed major theoretical approaches to regional cooperation and explored specific case studies worldwide.

22. **Values and institutions for a globalizing world**: IEGL organized a series of workshops with major international centres on the question of which institutions would be needed to realize democratic governance values. Each workshop examined a specific liberal-democratic or social-democratic value, the challenges posed by globalization and the way the value might be reconceived in a globalizing world. Project work incorporated dialogues on governance values between different cultures and emphasized the ethics of intervention, the reconceptualization of sovereignty and the repatriation of refugees.

23. **Integrity and social responsibility**: projects by the IEGL integrity and anti-corruption programme included work in Georgia (funded by the Open Society Foundation), East Timor (funded by the World Bank) and Papua New Guinea (funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat). Major ongoing (five-year) IEGL projects focused on measuring and combating bribery (conducted with Transparency International) and conceiving and implementing national integrity systems (supported by Transparency International and the Australian Research Council).

24. **Women's health in India**: in April, UNU, the Karl Storz Company and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) launched "Within the Global Compact: A Public-Private Partnership for Improving Women's and Girls' Health in India". The UNU role is to assess the project from an international viewpoint and to determine its impact and potential for replication in other countries. Two workshops were held in October in Chennai, India.

25. **Capacity development and outreach**: activities related to the thematic area of good governance in 2005 included:

(a) A short-term course on leadership development for senior and mid-career professionals (by the University's International Leadership Institute (UNU-ILI));

(b) A two-week youth leadership for global governance residential course (organized by UNU-ILI, in partnership with the King Abdullah II Fund for Development and funded by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)).

IV. Thematic area 3: Development and poverty reduction

26. There is basic agreement among scholars and practitioners on the foundations for successful development strategies and on the reduction of poverty as the first priority. Further study is required, however, to better understand such issues as the causes of increasing inequality, the impacts of a transition to a market economy, the societal impacts of globalization and technological change and the processes of wealth generation. The following were some of the UNU projects and activities in 2005 within the thematic area of "Development and poverty reduction".

27. **The past and future of development economics**: to celebrate its twentieth anniversary, in June UNU-WIDER held its largest-ever conference in Helsinki. Participants, including leading scholars and many former UNU-WIDER project directors and associates, heard some 100 speakers discuss the "Future of development economics". An edited volume based on the conference is planned for 2006 and two special commemorative volumes of UNU-WIDER materials also were prepared for publication.

28. **Spatial disparities in human development**: In October, UNU-WIDER organized a book launch and presentation of its research on spatial disparities in human development, at the Department for International Development in London. The project directors presented recent studies published in two volumes, four special issues of journals, and a UNU policy brief. Several UNU-WIDER books related to the theme were published (by Oxford University Press) in 2005, as well as several special issues of journals that presented UNU-WIDER research and a selection of UNU-WIDER discussion papers in Chinese (published by Fudan University).

29. **Higher education in Iraq**: in spite of the crippling effects of two wars and sanctions, the Iraqi academic community continued to provide a university education to a sizeable number of Iraqi students. An article by the Director of UNU-ILI, following his attendance at a round table convened by UNESCO on the reconstruction of the Iraqi system of higher education, elicited considerable interest in the press and on radio worldwide. The article argued for the necessity of thinking about long-term reconstruction of Iraq's higher education system through a holistic national effort.

30. **African-Asian Development University Network**: at the Asian-African Summit 2005, in Jakarta, ministers of Asian and African countries adopted a plan of action calling for, among other items, development of a network among universities, libraries, research institutes and centres of excellence in Asia and Africa to promote sustainable development, integrate the countries of the region into the world economy and enhance competitiveness. UNU-ILI participated in an African team that undertook a pre-feasibility study and, in partnership with the Asian team, submitted a draft proposal to a working group in New York. UNU continues to work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which was a key partner in the early discussions, and the Government of Japan, which formally announced its support of the initiative at the global summit at the United Nations in September.

31. **Interaction between different levels of governance**: UNU-CRIS has assessed the interaction between different levels of economic governance and, in particular, the role of regional agreements, regimes or rules. A book based on this work will be published in 2006.

32. **Regional integration for development**: UNU-CRIS activities related to monitoring and assessing regional integration led to the publication of a volume in 2005, and another scheduled for publication in 2006. UNU-CRIS organized a panel in March on "Federalism in international relations" in Brussels for policymakers and researchers from the European Union, MERCOSUR and the African Union, at which it presented a background paper on "Federalism and global governance". In addition, in May, UNU-CRIS organized a conference on "The Future of European Union-Andean Community Relations" as well as a panel on "Competition and complementarity between global and regional public goods" at United Nations Headquarters, at which it presented a paper on "Regional cooperation and the provision of regional and global public goods".

33. **Sociocultural aspects of regional integration**: within the framework of the network of excellence on "Global governance, regionalization and regulation: the role of the European Union" (GARNET Network of PhD schools), UNU-CRIS was involved in a jointly executed research project on normative issues of regional and global governance, coordinated by the University of Florence. UNU-CRIS also

participated in the first project workshop, "Political identity and legitimacy in the European Union", held in Florence in September.

34. **Harmonizing nutrient-based dietary standards**: the University's Food and Nutrition Programme (UNU-FNP) is finalizing a global scientific review intended to lead to the harmonization of approaches for developing nutrient-based dietary standards. Resolution of the current differences (in setting nutrient standards, designing food policies and transparently applying national standards to trade and other regulatory/normative activities) is most problematic for developing countries. Ten state-of-the-art papers related to the harmonization of present approaches commissioned by UNU-FNP served as core documentation for a jointly planned and sponsored UNU/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) consultation at the offices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Florence in December.

35. **Capacity development**: activities related to the theme "Development and poverty reduction" in 2005 included:

(a) Modules on regional studies for the Master's Degree programme in international peace studies, University for Peace (Costa Rica), and on regional integration in Europe for a summer course at University of South Pacific (Fiji), a seminar at the College of Europe (Belgium) and a training programme on regional integration and macroeconomic policy coordination (in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa Trade and Regional Integration Division), all by UNU-CRIS;

(b) The UNU-CRIS PhD bursary programme (assistance for doctoral students from developing countries);

(c) The UNU-WIDER PhD research internship programme and sabbatical and visiting scholars programme;

(d) Support by UNU-WIDER for young PhD candidates from developing countries in Africa to participate in development conferences;

(e) A workshop on "Quality assurance in higher education" for educators from the Middle East and North Africa, organized by UNU-IIST (in collaboration with UNESCO and the UNDP Bureau for Arab States Higher Education Project).

V. Thematic area 4: Environment and sustainability

36. The global environment has become increasingly vulnerable to rapid (and often drastic) changes caused by human activity and intervention, and the potential for global climate change is being exacerbated by economic development, population growth and increased energy use. A global shift from non-renewable to renewable resources and a changing of consumption patterns so as to reduce waste and conserve resources can only come about through prudent international policy frameworks and rules to protect the environment while promoting economic growth and sustainable development. The following are some of the UNU projects and activities in 2005 focused in the thematic area "Environment and sustainability".

37. **Management of fragile ecosystems**: the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme organized a project on managing agrodiversity (with UNESCO and others) and a symposium on "Conserving cultural and biological

diversity: the role of sacred natural sites and cultural landscapes" in May/June and launched a traditional rice-fish system project in China under the FAO global initiative on globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems. A project entitled "Sustainable land management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains: an integrated and transboundary initiative in Central Asia" (a joint initiative by UNU, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)) prepared a project funding proposal, conducted training in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and organized several national and regional project development meetings.

38. **Sustainable land management in mountainous regions**: in the mountainous mainland of South-east Asia, home to some of Asia's most disadvantaged people, local expertise and knowledge has been largely ignored in the implementation of poverty reduction and environmental conservation policies. The project "Sustainable land management in mountainous regions: China (Yunnan province), the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand" (developed by the UNU environment and sustainable development programme in cooperation with Japan and national partners in the region) seeks to create new knowledge and options for incorporating local knowledge and actions with positive impact on natural resources into relevant policies. In June, UNEP/GEF approved a project preparation and development facility, block A (PDF-A) grant for the implementation of a four-year targeted UNU research effort.

39. **Environmental monitoring and governance**: the Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the East Asian Hydrosphere project marked its tenth anniversary with an international conference in September. Since its launch, this project has nurtured chemical analysis capacity in East Asia. During the phase ending in 2005, supported by Shimadzu Corporation, the project sought to increase the capacity of nine countries for chemical analyses of environmental pollutants (in particular persistent organic pollutants) in coastal water and sediment.

40. **Water crises**: the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme project on international rivers and lake basins management published three books in 2005. The management of basin water cycle project set up experimental numerical weather forecasting systems in the Mekong Basin and Sri Lanka (in collaboration with the Creativity in Science and Technology (CREST) research project of the Japan Science and Technology Corporation) and organized a basin-wide research coalition to enhance upstream/downstream information flow and dialogue in the Mekong Basin. Two international conferences were held: one by UNU in March, in Thailand, and another in December in Yunnan province (China) by UNU, the World Bank Institute and Chinese universities.

41. **Sustainable urbanization**: UNU was a focal organization of the thematic cluster on risk assessment and early warning at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe in January, and co-hosted four sessions, two public forums and a workshop. Within the framework of its Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Programme, UNU conducted a detailed field survey in three Sri Lankan cities to prepare a tsunami hazard map and gather data for evacuation scenario simulation. In addition, a case study of catastrophic flood risk assessment programmes was implemented in Hanoi, and an international programme on landslides (developed by UNU and Kyoto University), was launched. The Innovative Communities Initiative published a book and a research brief, and the Zero Emissions Forum held two major

symposiums at the UNU Centre: one in May to mark the coming into effect of the Kyoto Protocol, and one in October on the theme "Climate change and zero emissions".

42. **Environmental governance and information**: the Globally Integrated Environmental Assessment Modeling (GLEAM) project conducted a multidisciplinary study in Sri Lanka on the climate change impacts of atmospheric brown cloud and greenhouse gases and launched a graduate research programme to support UNU research efforts in the region. The Information Society and Environmental Issues project and ZEF co-developed an initiative on solving the e-waste problem (with broad participation by other United Nations agencies and support from Hewlett Packard and Dell). The interlinkages initiative of the Global Environment Information Centre, a joint initiative of UNU and the Japan Ministry of the Environment, focused on strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships at national and regional levels and conducted integrated capacity development and knowledge management activities for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, with training workshops in Sri Lanka (in February and April) and at United Nations Headquarters (in March).

43. **Natural resources management in Africa**: UNU-INRA focused on two areas of resource management: improving land productivity; and biodiversity conservation and development. Among several highly relevant and significant outcomes was a collaborative project with the University of Namibia to develop conservation strategies for the "devil's claw" plant (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) through its cultivation as a domesticated cash crop, and, in collaboration with scientists at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, to establish a field gene bank for the conservation of African indigenous leafy vegetables (as a first step to assist African countries to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity).

44. **Ecosystem assessment**: as a contribution to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNU-INWEH and the University's Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) co-authored a global drylands assessment that was submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. UNU-INWEH's project on sustainable management of marginal drylands submitted a progress report at the November project meeting/workshop in Pakistan and published a research paper on the development of a harmonized assessment framework.

45. **Coral reefs**: UNU-INWEH is executing a component on coral reef connectivity for a global programme on coral reef targeted research and capacity-building for management, sponsored by GEF and the World Bank. Two regional training workshops were held and ecological monitoring initiated at sentinel locations. The UNU-INWEH project leader co-authored an article giving an overview of critical gaps in knowledge about coral reefs and fisheries management.

46. **Knowledge management for land degradation**: UNU-INWEH undertook a GEF-funded project to contribute to the mitigation of land degradation. Working in close cooperation with an interagency group (GEF, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)), UNU-INWEH developed an outline framework and indicators, work that will lead to the development of a GEF medium-sized project.

47. **Post-tsunami activities**: in February, UNU-EHS and the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme launched a fact-finding mission to assess needs and identify partners for tsunami follow-up activities. UNU-EHS participated in several post-tsunami conferences and, at the request of the Inter-Agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, carried out, in coordination with several Sri Lankan universities, immediate post-disaster vulnerability assessment. UNU-EHS also initiated long-term cooperation with partner universities to monitor the recovery process in Sri Lanka. In May, UNU-EHS joined a consortium of leading German research institutes and development cooperation institutions in the German-Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System project (funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany). This effort is being developed in close cooperation with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

48. **Vulnerability assessment**: in January, immediately after the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, UNU-EHS convened an expert workshop on vulnerability measurement. A research brief was distributed at the sixth Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of the Global Environmental Change Research Community (co-organized by UNU), and a book will be published in early 2006. UNU-EHS also developed a questionnaire for post-disaster assessment of the vulnerability of affected households and conducted several surveys with particular reference to the Indian Ocean tsunami, hurricanes Katrina and Rita and recent flood events in Europe.

49. **Capacity development**: new activities in the area of environment and sustainability in 2005 included:

(a) The first UNU summer school for "Bird's-eye view experts on environment", for postgraduate environmental studies majors (at the UNU Centre);

(b) The first sessions of the UNU-INWEH Water Virtual Learning Centre, at three regional centres (in Africa, Asia and the Pacific);

(c) A new Master's degree programme in integrated land management in dry areas, a joint undertaking of UNU-INWEH, the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme and institutes in Tunisia and China;

(d) A module on environmental management and policy studies piloted as part of the M.Sc. (Environment) programme at Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (developed by UNU-INRA).

50. Other capacity activities in this thematic area included:

(a) Workshops by UNU-IAS on intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge, held in Australia, Japan, Malaysia and Uzbekistan;

(b) A two-week mangroves biodiversity course, organized jointly by UNU-INWEH, the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and Annamalai University (India);

(c) UNU-GTP six-month specialized course in Iceland, and a workshop for decision-makers on geothermal projects and their management in Kenya (co-organized by the University's Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP) in collaboration with two local partners);

(d) Training seminars on vulnerability and on water-related risk and vulnerability management of urban agglomerations, organized by UNU-EHS;

(e) A workshop on "Environment and sustainability" and postgraduate international internship programmes by the UNU/Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology joint programme on science and technology for sustainability;

(f) Training by UNU-INRA in computer applications for analysing and managing natural resources and in plant tissue culture applications to agriculture;

(g) PhD studies on topics related to the mandate of UNU-EHS.

51. Fellowships programmes in 2005 included:

(a) UNU-IAS postdoctoral fellowships, PhD fellowships and junior professional fellowships;

(b) UNU-IAS "Agriculture for peace" split fellowships;

(c) UNU-IAS coordinated Japan Society for the Promotion of Science/UNU postdoctoral fellowship programme.

VI. Thematic area 5: Science, technology and society

52. Rapid advances in science and technology have created unprecedented development opportunities. However, it is vital that we understand the impact of our increasing technological capabilities (in terms of social and ethical issues) and the broader societal impacts of technological change and use this understanding to bridge the burgeoning "digital divide" towards more effective knowledge-sharing in an information society open to all. Several UNU projects and activities in 2005 were related to the thematic area of "Science, technology and society".

53. **Innovation in Africa**: UNU-INTECH played an active role in preparing for the African Innovation Outlook, a comprehensive profile that will help African countries to benchmark their innovative performance, identify problems, and devise solutions for capacity development. At the request of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), UNU-INTECH analysed a wide range of existing surveys and elaborated key factors considered to be necessary ingredients in the African setting. That work was submitted to the NEPAD Expert Working Group on African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators.

54. **Development and intellectual property rights**: the UNU-INTECH international seminar on the "Development agenda on innovation and intellectual property rights" in September was a contribution to the development agenda initiative proposed by a 14-country "Friends of Development Group" at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Seminar participants concluded that the intellectual property system has become greatly skewed in favour of protecting private knowledge goods without taking into account the social costs incurred, and made recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly in Geneva in September/October.

55. **Sector-specific research initiatives**: UNU-INTECH projects in 2005 included:

(a) Studies on building innovative capacity in agriculture and rural development (feeding into programmes led by the Department for International Development in the United Kingdom, the World Bank and others);

(b) Analysis of health-related biotechnology and (bio)pharmaceutical innovation systems in developing countries (of particular relevance for WHO, the World Trade Organization and WIPO);

(c) Building the capabilities of policymakers in developing countries to understand the latest waves of technology change and design suitable environmental policies (in collaboration with the UNU Centre, UNU-GTP and the International Development Research Centre (Canada));

(d) Examining the role of foreign direct investment by multinational companies in upgrading local technologies in developing countries (in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP and other United Nations organizations).

56. **Contributing to the information society**: UNU had a significant presence at phase two of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunisia in November, hosting three parallel events to publicize the University's online programmes and promoting several of the University's open educational resources and distance education initiatives.

57. **Electronic governance and open source software**: the University's International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) presented its e-governance and open software projects at the World Summit on the Information Society thematic meeting on the ubiquitous network society in May (in Tokyo) and at the thematic meeting on multi-stakeholder partnerships for bridging the digital divide in June (in Seoul). The UNU-IIST e-Macao project surveyed more than 40 government agencies, trained government staff and built a repository of knowledge on e-governance that can be generalized and transferred to other parts of the world. The global desktop project, formally announced in September at "IT Week 2005" at UNU-IIST in Macau, China, seeks to improve the usability of the Linux operating system and to increase the numbers of open source developers in developing countries.

58. **Component and embedded systems**: UNU-IIST presented its work on security issues related to embedded and component systems at the WSIS thematic meeting on cyber-security in June (in Geneva). The research project on methods for development of component software has achieved good results, established a general theory for refinement of component systems and produced numerous publications on a wide range of relevant topics.

59. **Water resources management**: UNU-IIST and UNU-INWEH are collaborating to create WaterBase, a generic decision-support tool with a supporting metadata structure that will be used to advance the practice of integrated water resources management in developing countries. The 18-month project, launched in August, includes creation of a training module in integrated water resources management informatics for UNU-INWEH's Water Virtual Learning Centre.

60. **Biodiplomacy**: UNU-IAS prepared an information document on certificates of origin for the Meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing in Bangkok in February, published two reports highlighting the need for addressing the gene trade in areas outside the remit of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and held a round table in Paris on access and benefit-sharing governance in November (with the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales and the Centre for Philosophy of Law of the University of Louvain). UNU-IAS work on disclosure of origin issues was fed into negotiations at the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, WIPO and the World Trade Organization. UNU-IAS held workshops on traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, databases and indigenous and local communities' customary law and practices (one for Pacific island countries in November and one for countries of the Andean community in December) and, with WIPO, organized a regional workshop for countries of Central Asia and Mongolia (in October). A UNU-IAS working paper on cloning was part of the United Nations negotiations leading up to the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Cloning (General Assembly resolution 59/280).

61. **Sustainable development**: the UNU-IAS Science Policy for Sustainable Development Programme, which is focused on the needs of developing countries and the United Nations agenda, held four conferences and produced five publications.

62. **Biotechnology and artworks preservation**: the effort to develop a biotechnology and artworks preservation network brought the University's Biotechnology for Latin America and the Caribbean programme (UNU-BIOLAC) high visibility in 2005. This network will assist researchers and art restorers from developing countries in using modern biotechnology tools to conserve their cultural heritage. A November workshop showcased how biotechnology and other sciences can assist in the conservation of cultural heritage in tropical zones.

63. **Capacity development**: activities within the thematic area of science, technology and society in 2005 included:

(a) Three UNU-INTECH workshops on the "Design and evaluation of innovation policies";

(b) The MERIT/UNU-INTECH PhD programme and UNU-INTECH PhD internship programme;

(c) Postgraduate training by UNU-IIST at universities in six developing countries, and (in cooperation with local partners) 15 software-related schools/courses/workshops in nine developing countries;

(d) Fourteen courses by UNU-BIOLAC, including courses on structural bioinformatics (in Argentina) and agricultural biotechnology and food biosafety (in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

VII. Selected cross-cutting issues

64. Much of the work of UNU is cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary in nature. While some projects focus on specific, well-defined issues or fields of study within one of the five UNU thematic areas, others cut across and complement multiple thematic areas or integrate divergent or disparate elements that transcend traditional social, economic, and natural foundations. Furthermore, some perspectives, such as gender roles and human rights, are addressed across all issues and thematic areas. The following are examples of significant cross-cutting initiatives undertaken in 2005.

65. **Regional security and global governance**: a UNU-CRIS project explored the meaning and promise of a "new vision of global security" that would draw upon the resources and legitimacy of a network of mutually reinforcing, flexible and responsive multilateral mechanisms. A summary version of the study results was published by the Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations in January, and the complete results (revised to take into account the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations High-level Panel) were published in December.

66. **Sustainable development governance**: UNU-IAS officially launched a book based on its research in sustainable development governance in December at the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, China. Within the context of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, UNU-IAS examined the capacity of regional institutions to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. The project "Engaging the disenfranchised", which examined ways to enhance the participation and influence of civil society actors and policymakers from developing countries, published two policy reports.

67. **Gender and migration**: a workshop on "Gender and migration: domestic workers from Asia and Latin America" was held at the UNU Centre in October. The discussions, which highlighted the fact that although the number of women migrating for domestic work worldwide is high, the level of attention given to their situation is very low, resulted in the proposal of various awareness-raising strategies.

68. **Multi-themed capacity development**: among training courses offered by UNU that encompassed elements of two or more of UNU's thematic areas were:

(a) The six-week United Nations international courses, held in May/June at the UNU Centre, with courses on "Armed conflict: prevention, management and resolution", "Global environment: science and policy", "Human rights: concepts and issues", and "International cooperation and development";

(b) The joint graduate programme in international relations for students at cooperating Japanese universities, which offered courses on "Functions of the United Nations system in a turbulent world" and "Conflicts: causes, prevention, and international action";

(c) The annual six-month UNU fisheries training programme in Iceland.

VIII. Capacity development

69. UNU is strongly committed to the enhancement of human potential and the strengthening of institutional competence to solve current problems and confront emergent challenges. Sound capabilities for self-sustained learning, the generation of new knowledge or technologies and for their effective application are vital, not only to the development efforts of poorer countries, but to the effectiveness of United Nations programmes. UNU capacity development efforts are directed at postgraduate-level academics and researchers, civil society actors, policymakers and other professionals contributing to the enhancement of human security/welfare and the promotion of human development.

70. **Project-based capacity development**: Capacity development is an integral component of UNU research and policy study projects, and of the policymaking, development and advocacy processes to which UNU contributes. Through participation in UNU project work, young researchers and scholars can enrich their skills and knowledge by working with and learning from skilled professionals. Project-based capacity development also encompasses the numerous non-regular training workshops and seminars that are held in direct connection with ongoing UNU research and policy study activities.

71. **UNU Capacity Development Programme**: a large portion of the UNU budget is specifically devoted to the UNU Capacity Development Programme, which works in cooperation with strong partner institutions to provide (primarily) postgraduate training for students from developing countries. The programme organizes postgraduate training courses in UNU network institutions and provides fellowships to scholars who need financial assistance. UNU seeks to obtain a "multiplier effect", upgrading not only participants' individual capabilities but also the capacities of the participants' home institutions.

72. More than 170 academics and other professionals took part in specialized advanced training offered by the UNU Capacity Development Programme in 2005; 99 of these (from developing countries) received UNU fellowships for their participation. The opportunities include short-duration training courses and workshops (of up to two months), long-duration training programmes (of 3 to 12 months), and degree-oriented study programmes.

73. **Capacity development through networking**: scientific exchange is a vital component of individual as well as institutional academic development, but scholars and researchers from developing countries often lack the financial means to travel to important international conferences. To help alleviate the isolation of academics in developing countries and promote their integration into regional and global academic, professional and policymaking communities, the UNU Capacity Development Programme provides travel grants, supports university staff exchange and facilitates the organization of workshops and conferences in developing countries.

74. **Research fellowships and internships**: the UNU Centre and several of the UNU research and training centres and programmes also provide short-term opportunities for highly qualified, young researchers to conduct research in cooperation with the regular University staff.

75. **UNU Financial Assistance Programme**: since 2003, the UNU Financial Assistance Programme for Students from Developing Countries Studying in Japan has provided assistance, in the form of reimbursable funds, to self-financed students. The aim is to provide opportunities and incentives for young people from developing countries to pursue higher education in Japan, so that they will be better equipped to contribute to the future development of their home countries. The programme, implemented with financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, has so far assisted more than 330 students attending 20 cooperating Japanese universities.

76. **Online learning opportunities**: advanced information and communications technologies enable UNU to offer quality educational programmes at a distance, for larger numbers of participants, and at lower cost. UNU Online Learning, based in the media studio at the UNU Centre, assists the University in developing useful and dynamic content for online courses and CD-ROMs and works with the UNU Campus Computing Centre team to provide an effective online learning platform. In 2005, for example, UNU Online Learning collaborated with Oxford Brookes University (United Kingdom) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana) to develop e-course modules, and with the University of Guadalajara (Mexico) to produce an interactive e-case study.

77. UNU also works in close collaboration with key partners and through flagship projects to reach out to new audiences and to help educational institutions in developing countries enhance their online learning infrastructures and expertise. Such activities in 2005 included:

(a) United Nations Water Virtual Learning Centre, developed by UNU-INWEH in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(b) UNU Global Virtual University, a joint effort by UNU, UNEP, UNEP Grid-Arendal and Agder University College (Norway);

(c) The Asia Pacific Initiative;

(d) African University Network (AFUNET), an open initiative developed by UNU, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) with a network of university partners.

IX. Networking activities

78. The concept of networking is integral to the work of UNU. Through networking, the University strives to be open to different disciplines, cultures, regions and management styles, and to be proactive in working cooperatively with institutions and individual scholars worldwide.

79. UNU itself can be characterized as a "network of networks". The core network, the UNU Centre in Tokyo and the 12 UNU research and training centres/programmes, works in collaboration with a broader network of nine designated UNU associated institutions and hundreds of cooperating institutions and individual scholars and researchers worldwide. UNU is thus able to extend its outreach in a unique, decentralized way, giving it a global perspective, improved interaction with worldwide academic communities and the ability to tap a wide range of human and financial resources.

A. Global networking initiatives

80. The increasing globalization of research agendas, coupled with rapid advances in information and communication technologies, make effective networking a critical factor in the successful generation, transfer and application of knowledge. Networking components are inherent in much of UNU's research, foresight/policy study, capacity development and dissemination activities, but the following examples merit special mention.

81. **Policy dialogue**: A distinctive component of the UNU mandate is to link scholarly research with policy development. A prime example is the proposed "leaders summit forum (L20) research project", conducted by UNU jointly with the Centre for Global Studies/Centre for International Governance Innovation in Canada; three project workshops were held in 2005. The UNU Peace and Governance Programme organized a panel discussion on the "Rule of law and transitional justice" in January at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York, co-hosted the fifth European Union/UNU Tokyo Global Forum with the delegation of the European Union Commission in Japan in February, and co-organized policy dialogue forums on peacekeeping themes in cooperation with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (India) and a workshop with Chuo University (Japan).

82. UNU-CRIS collaborated in organizing a three-day Wilton Park conference entitled "The United Nations Relationship with Regional Organizations in Crisis Management and Peacekeeping" in April in London, and worked with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs to prepare for the sixth high-level meeting between the Secretary-General and regional organizations in July. UNU-INTECH, in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group — European Union), supported national consultation processes in six African, Caribbean and Pacific countries by convening three regional consultations in those areas on "Enhancing the science and technology policy dialogue".

83. **Education for sustainable development**: "Sustaining the future: globalization and education for sustainable development", the fourth in a series of joint UNU/UNESCO conferences on globalization, was held in June at Nagoya University in Japan. On the first day of the conference, following the official launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) in the Asia-Pacific region, participants discussed the role of education in preparing people to contribute to sustainable development, peace and human security and the roles of e-learning, regional initiatives and higher education. The conference closed with the official launch of seven worldwide regional centres of expertise on education for sustainable development organized by UNU-IAS. By the end of 2005, 10 such centres had been identified. The centres seek to build innovative platforms for sharing information and experiences, promoting dialogue among relevant stakeholders and creating a local/regional knowledge base.

84. **Food and nutrition network**: UNU-FNP spearheaded establishment of the African Nutrition Graduate Students Network, a network of African nationals enrolled in graduate nutrition programmes throughout the world; the group's inaugural conference was held in September in Durban (South Africa). UNU-FNP also completed a global regional network of capacity development task forces, and

finalized a global review that seeks to harmonize approaches for developing nutrient-based dietary standards for the joint UNU/FAO/WHO consultation in December at the UNICEF offices in Florence.

85. **Globalization and regionalization**: UNU-CRIS was involved in the creation of two research networks in 2005: the European Union-Latin American Relations Observatory, an effort by 25 leading research centres to establish a synergistic network of networks among academic and policy-oriented research institutions in the European Union and Latin America (formally launched in May), and Global Governance, Regionalization and Regulation: the role of the European Union (GARNET Network of PhD schools), involving 44 leading European research centres, which began operation in November.

86. **Biotechnology networks**: alliances with the Organization of American States and FAO enhance UNU-BIOLAC's effectiveness in covering Central American and Caribbean countries with its Regional Network on Biosafety and biosafety activities. UNU-BIOLAC also consolidated the new Latin American Network on Molecular Epidemiology to address the threats of epidemics of infectious diseases in the region and moved forward on the creation of a network on biotechnology for the preservation of artworks.

B. Partnerships within the United Nations system

87. With intellectual independence guaranteed by its charter, UNU is uniquely positioned to contribute to the generation and sharing of knowledge relevant to the roles and work of the United Nations, and to the application of that knowledge in formulating sound policies, strategies and programmes for action. At the highest level, UNU (through the Rector) provides inputs to meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination and, in turn, is alerted about pressing United Nations policy issues to which the University can contribute.

88. Continuing to enhance its connections with, and contributions to, other organizations within the United Nations system is a major priority of UNU. The University works with United Nations system agencies, programmes, commissions and convention secretariats through formal agreements of cooperation and through joint activities based on functional links. Each unit of UNU maintains its own set of United Nations system partnerships, while the UNU liaison offices actively represent the University at United Nations Headquarters in New York and UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

89. In 2005, UNU worked with some 40 United Nations system partners. The University maintains a regular dialogue with its partner organizations in the United Nations system to determine their research and capacity development needs and strives to develop cooperative relationships that can lead to "strategic alliances" on issues relevant to the mission of UNU.

X. Dissemination and outreach

90. The fundamental goal of the UNU communication effort is to deliver appropriate knowledge to those who need it most, in a useful form and timely manner. Ensuring the dissemination of current scientific information and best

practice to the developing world is a particular priority. Key audiences include scholars, practitioners, policymakers, students/trainees and the general public. UNU utilizes traditional print media, new digital media, promotional events and public forums and media liaison.

Print media

91. In 2005, the UNU system produced 38 books as well as numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, policy briefs, discussion/working papers and other publications (including chapters in edited volumes, articles in magazines and newspapers, lectures and conference proceedings).

92. UNU Press published 17 new titles (including material sourced from within the UNU system) and three reprints, and partnered with United Nations Publications in Geneva to produce a French catalogue of its books (which is being used to encourage French publishers to co-publish works in translation). A new series of UNU policy and research briefs was also launched by UNU Press in order to deliver concise summaries of the University's research results to a broader audience. An issue of the *Work in Progress* newsletter focusing on biodiplomacy, guest-edited by UNU-IAS, was published by UNU Office of Communications in July.

93. The UNU Centre Library added almost 1,000 new titles in 2005, and now houses some 32,000 volumes, including almost 2,500 UNU publications, 4,800 other United Nations publications, and about 240 scholarly journals (in print format, with some also accessible online). The Library also worked with the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo to organize several "Workshop seminars on United Nations documentation and tips for researching" for researchers and students.

Digital media

94. More than 200 UNU Press titles were made available in 2005 on Google print search (an online search engine for books and other printed products) and through the specialized Google scholar search tool, significantly improving the visibility and accessibility of UNU's outputs. UNU Press also worked with the UNU Library and the UNU Campus Computing Centre in Tokyo to begin developing a UNU Institutional Repository (a digital archive of all UNU printed outputs), which will be available online and, on demand, in print. This key asset will improve the visibility and accessibility of UNU research and other academic outputs and will make the accomplishments of the University more transparent. The UNU Institutional Repository project complements the subject-specific repository "Research in the UN (RUN)", which is being developed by UNU-IIST and UNU-WIDER.

95. The UNU Office of Communications worked with Adaptive Path, a San Francisco-based user experience and web strategy consultancy, to determine a redevelopment plan and web strategy aimed at a comprehensive overhaul of the main UNU website and improved coordination of the 50-plus websites maintained within the UNU system. The recommendations report outlined overall strategic objectives as well as an implementation plan for website redevelopment (although the scope and time frame for this redevelopment effort remain under discussion).

96. The main UNU website received an average of 270,000 visitors and nearly 2.6 million "hits" per month. Readership of the University's online newsletter, *UNU Update*, grew to more than 5,000 per month, with French and Spanish versions

launched in collaboration with the UNU New York and Paris liaison offices. The UNU video portal, which offers Internet access to broadcasts of major UNU events and other digital media presentations, continued to grow in content and functionality in 2005; some 70 archived video presentations are now available for public viewing.

Public relations activities

97. The UNU Office of Communications conducted extensive media liaison activities throughout the year, both within Japan and abroad, and coordinated numerous interviews between journalists and senior UNU personnel. Several significant issues received coverage in major newspapers, magazines and online sources. Other media and public relations activities by the UNU Office of Communications included 35 media releases, in English and Japanese, to local and international media, more than a dozen information briefing sessions at the UNU Centre and training of some 50 volunteers for the United Nations pavilion at the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan (Expo 2005).

98. The UNU liaison office at UNESCO headquarters undertook several initiatives aimed at raising the profile of UNU among its constituencies in Europe. These included making arrangements with the United Nations Office at Geneva to distribute *UNU Update* and media releases to journalists accredited to the United Nations and the specialized agencies based in Geneva, and distributing UNU informational materials to journalists in Paris (through Centre d'Accueil de la Presse Étrangère and the foreign press club).

Promotional and outreach events

99. Exhibitions are a crucial method for promoting and disseminating the published work of UNU as well as improving the University's profile among key academic and policy communities. In advance of the United Nations World Summit in 2005, UNU Press hosted a seminar at United Nations Headquarters in New York to promote a series of recent books on the topic of United Nations reform and to profile UNU's 30 years of contributions to the evolution of global institutions and international diplomacy. The UNU liaison office in New York also organized several events in cooperation with other UNU units and conducted briefings and outreach activities in conjunction with United Nations conferences and other significant events.

100. The UNU Office of Communications played a coordinating role for the University's delegation to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (in Tunis), prepared an informational exhibit on information and communication technologies, and published/disseminated 10 information leaflets on specific UNU ICT-based projects.

Public forums

101. Each year, the UNU Centre and the UNU research and training centres/programmes organize numerous public lectures, conferences and symposiums. Among the events of special note in 2005 were:

- Two U Thant distinguished lectures (UNU Centre and UNU-IAS);
- Fifth EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum (UNU Centre);

- Fifth annual Michio Nagai memorial lecture (UNU Centre);
- 2005 UNU-WIDER annual lecture;
- Fourth Amilcar Herrera public lecture in technology and development (UNU-INTECH);
- 2005 Africa Day symposium (UNU Centre);
- 2005 UNU-INRA Annual Lectures;
- Ten Yokohama round tables (UNU-IAS);
- Nine UNU global seminars.

XI. Financial and human resources

102. UNU receives no funds from the regular United Nations budget; it is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from Governments, agencies, international organizations, private companies and foundations. In 2005, UNU received investment income from its Endowment Fund as well as operating and specific programme contributions from 14 Governments and 75 other sources. UNU also benefited from counterpart and other support, such as cost-sharing support for fellowships and other activities. UNU expenditures for academic activities, personnel, and general costs in 2005 amounted to approximately $38.6 million (unaudited).

103. As of year-end, the UNU system had a personnel component of about 290, of which more than 160 were professional staff. Approximately 25 per cent of UNU staff were nationals of developing countries. Consistent with UNU's mandated role as an international community of scholars, UNU staff included nationals of more than 50 countries, while the University's cooperating network associates represented more than 100 countries. The University also tries to maintain a natural gender balance; in 2005, the male:female ratio of UNU personnel was 54:46.

Annex

Members of the Council of United Nations University for 2005

Appointed members

Professor Vappu Taipale (Finland), Chair of the Council, Director-General, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Helsinki

Professor Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad (Qatar), President, Qatar University, Doha

Professor Rafaa Ben Achour (Tunisia), Faculté des sciences juridiques, politiques et sociales, former Secrétaire d'Etat auprès du Ministre de l'éducation chargé de l'innovation pédagogique, Ministère de l'éducation, Tunis

Professor Lidia R. Arthur Brito (Mozambique), Assistant Professor, Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering, Eduardo Mondlane University; former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Mozambique

Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), Secretary-General, Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process, Colombo; former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations, New York; former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Professor Gloria Cristina Florez (Peru), Professor, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima

Dr. Eduardo Carrega Marçal Grilo (Portugal), Trustee, Gulbenkian Foundation; former Minister of Education of Portugal, Lisbon

Ambassador Ahmad Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris

Dr. Ji Fusheng (China), former Director-General, Department of High Technology and Fundamental Research of China; former Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations

Professor Peter H. Katjavivi (Namibia), Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union, Embassy of the Republic of Namibia, Brussels; former Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia, Windhoek

Professor Dr. Marju Lauristin (Estonia), Professor of Social Communication, Tartu University; former Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia

Professor Dr. Andrei Marga (Romania), Professor of Contemporary Philosophy and Logic; former Rector, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Professor José Raymundo Martins Romeo (Brazil), Rector, Colégio do Brasil; former Rector and currently Professor of Physics, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dr. Dorothy L. Njeuma (Cameroon), Rector, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon

Professor Dr. Otto S. R. Ongkosongo (Indonesia), Geologist and Research Professor, Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta

Professor Jocelyne Perard (France), Centre de Recherches de Climatologie, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France

Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr (Ghana), Secretary-General, Association of African Universities; former Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Law, University of Ghana

Professor Dagmar Schipanski (Germany), President, Thuringian Parliament; former Minister of Science, Research and Art, Thüringer Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst, Erfurt, Germany

Ambassador Terusuke Terada (Japan), President, Foreign Press Centre/Japan; former Ambassador of Japan to Mexico, Belize and the Republic of Korea

Dr. Juan Vela Valdes (Cuba), Rector, University of Havana

Professor Hebe Maria Cristina Vessuri (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Senior Researcher and Head, Department of Science Studies, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Caracas

Professor Lyudmila A. Verbitskaya (Russian Federation), Rector and Professor of Linguistics, Saint Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Professor David Ward (United States of America), President, American Council on Education, Washington, D.C.; former Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States of America

Professor Alison Wolf (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Professor of Management and Professional Development, King's College London, University of London

UNU Rector

Professor J. A. van Ginkel (the Netherlands)

Ex officio members

Mr. Kofi Annan (Ghana), Secretary-General, United Nations

Mr. Koichiro Matsuura (Japan), Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris

Dr. Marcel Boisard (Switzerland), Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva

06-26599 (E) 210306